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...n troops flown in to Uganda

...March 19 (R)—Two Norwegian journalists just from Uganda said today officials told them thousands of troops had been flown in to bolster President Idi Amin's ...inst a Tanzanian-backed invasion by Ugandan exiles. ...dken and Stein Fjerns, from the Oslo newspaper Ver...ng, said they had been told by officials at Kampala's ...ospital that there were 120 wounded Libyan soldiers ...ey had no information as to how or when the men were ... The journalists reported that Entebbe appeared to be ... control of Libyan troops. They said they were told by ...l Entebbe of six self-propelled and six conventional ...illery pieces being flown in from Tripoli. They said there ...ly flights into Entebbe from Tripoli two weeks ago, ...in up to 600 soldiers a day. According to their infor...ewer flights came into the airport last week.

Hussein tells Brzezinski

...dan maintains rejection ...Camp David framework

Ron Cathell
the Jordan Times

...March 19 -- His ...g Hussein received ...rter's National Sec... Zbigniew Brzezinski ...miah Palace on Sun... the latest develop... ...ning the Middle East ...al stability, Mr. ...described the talks ... "useful and con...

...dential envoy was ...ficial U.S. delegation ...support from Saudi ...Jordan for the prop... ...Israeli treaty as the ...s of steps towards a ...e settlement in the ...tion, which included ...tary of State Warren ...he Chairman of the ...f Staff, Gen. David ...esident Carter's son ...at noon on Sunday ...Arabia where Mr. ...eld talks Saturday ...baled. From here, ...flew to Cairo for ...esident Sadat, and ...to Washington ...nn ...ind was blowing ...y skies as Air Force ...dential Boeing 707, ...at Amman airport. ...was greeted by the ...Royal Hashemite ...f Abdul Hamid ...ief of Staff of the ...Maj. Gen. Abdul ...rs of discussions at ...iah Palace, 15 ...thwest of Amman, ...was unsuccessful in ...ajesty to join in the ...roach to peace in ...ast. Jordan main... ...pposition to the ...the Camp David ...resolutions and affirmed its position in favour of a comprehensive peace based on full Palestinian rights and the return of all Israeli occupied territority, including Arab Jerusalem, to Arab sovereignty.

Mr. Brzezinski said in a statement to newsmen on departure that his talks in Saudi Arabia and Jordan had "focused on a mutual concern for a comprehensive peace settlement, on long-term and regional interests, and on more immediate security threats."

Although he didn't elaborate on the meaning of "immediate security threats," previous American statements have pointed to concern over the possibility of growing Soviet influence in the area, especially since the turmoil in Iran.

As with the U.S. idea for a comprehensive Middle East peace, Jordan didn't agree with the U.S.idea of what constitutes an immediate regional threat.

"We do have different approaches to regional security," an informed Jordanian source said. "We regard the current threat to Jordan and the Arab lands that Israel occupies, as being the immediate threat of Israeli expansionism."

Shortly after the delegation's arrival at the palace, Mr. Brzezinski, King Hussein and His Highness Crown Prince Hassan strolled along the outdoor patio overlooking the Jordan Valley north of the Dead Sea. From the patio, on a clear day, one can see the holy city of Jerusalem 60 kilometres away.

The American delegation then joined the Jordanian party in a working lunch which was also attended by the King's two teenage sons, Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal.

At the start of the official discussions, Mr. Brzezinski presented a letter to King Hussein from President Carter "with his warmest personal greetings. The president remembers the toast you gave him in Washington. It touched him very much," Mr. Brzezinski said.

Leaning forward with his elbows on the long conference table, Mr. Brzezinski told King Hussein: "The president asked me today to share with you his thinking on problems of mutual interest, and to be absolutely frank."

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After the discussions, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf told the press at the airport that the talks had been characterised by frankness. "His Majesty explained Jordan's point of view, frankly," he said. "His Majesty reflected Jordan's point of view, emphasising Arab rights, Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied lands, the return of Arab Jerusalem, the return of the Arab people to their land, self-determination (for the Palestinians) and a comprehensive settlement," he said.

According to informed observers here, in the event a bilateral Egyptian-Israeli treaty is signed, Jordan will agree to sanctions against Egypt in accordance with the resolutions passed at the Baghdad Arab summit meeting last November.

The observers are confident that if Jordan is called to an Arab summit, it will go. It will subscribe to the resolutions of an Arab summit. If Egypt signs a peace treaty, it will cause repercussions. Jordan hopes, there will be Arab solidarity and a realistic Arab reaction, ,they said.

On his departure from Amman airport, Mr. Brzezinski said: "Over the last two days we have had talks with Saudi Arabia and Jordan. These two countries are friends of the United States, and we believe this friendship is mutually beneficial. Our talks focused on a mutual concern for a comprehensive peace settlement on long-term and regional interests, and on more immediate security threats. We believe these talks were useful and constructive."

Taking part in the discussions were Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Gen. Majali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, Sharif Abdul Hamid and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, who is also minister of education.

Envoys deliver to Arab rulers royal messages

AMMAN, March 19 (Agencies)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim arrived in Kuwait from Bahrain tonight with a message from His Majesty King Hussein to the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah dealing with "latest Middle East developments and the coordination of efforts in the framework of Arab solidarity," the Jordan News Agency reported from Kuwait. It said he was received by Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad and the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait.

In Bahrain earlier today, Mr. Ibrahim said Jordan believed the proposed Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty would not lead to a just Middle East settlement.

In a statement to the Gulf News Agency, Mr. Ibrahim said the projected accord was "a separate and partial agreement which cannot result in achieving the just peace we want... Jordan believes peace can be realised by tackling the (Middle East) issue within an international framework which is the United Nations."

Jordan always advocated a comprehensive Middle East settlement based on Israel's complete withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights, Mr. Ibrahim said.

The Jordanian minister, on a Gulf tour, today delivered a message to the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa from King Hussein on latest Middle East developments.

Mr. Ibrahim said he had also reported to the Emir results of talks between the Jordanian monarch and President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Other messages from King Hussein were delivered over the weekend to King Khaled of Saudi Arabia and to the leaders of Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Truce ends firece battle in Kurdistan

TEHRAN, March 19 (R)--Kurdism rebels today fought a fierce battle with air force backed government troops in the western city of Snandaj, capturing the local radio station and gendarmerie and laying siege to the army barracks.

The national "Voice of the Revolution" radio reported tonight that dozens of people had been killed or injured in the fighting before a ceasefire was declared in the afternoon.

Earlier, religious revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for military resistance against the rebels, but appealed for unity between Iran's Shi'ite majority and the Sunni minority to which most Kurds belong.

He said those who attacked gendarmeries of army garrisons were foreign agents and did not belong to the Moslem people. Kurdish leaders, however, accused the remnants of the Shah's army of being responsible.

Apparently heeding the Ayatollah's call a large force of armed civilians set off for Sanandaj tonight to help the troops, but the armed forces high command appealed to the volunteers to turn back.

The Ayatollah's headquarters meanwhile broadcast a nationwide appeal for volunteer nurses and doctors to treat the wounded in Sanandaj.

A spokesman for the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) in Mahabad said agents-provocateurs of the toppled monarchy and members of the Shah's hated secret police Savak in the security forces had formed an alliance with reactionary Shi'ite clergy and attacked Sunnis in the Kurdish town of Qorveh.

The KDP spokesman said the army was using the same tactics as the Shah's father, who crushed the Kurds at the beginning of his reign in the 1920's.

Expected to be signed next Monday

Israeli cabinet approves treaty

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 19 (Agencies)--The Israeli cabinet voted 15 to two in favour of a proposed peace treaty with Egypt today and passed it on for final action to the Knesset which is also expected to support it. The Knessel debate on the document will begin tomorrow and is expected to last until Wednesday, or possibly Thursday.

The two opposing votes were cast by hardline Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and Transport Minister Haim Landau, a lifelong friend and associate of Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

A threatened revolt by three National Religious Party (NRP) ministers over the autonomy issue failed to materialise after the cabinet adopted Mr. Begin's proposal to appoint an 11-man ministerial committee, headed by himself, to work out an agreed programme for self-rule in the occupied areas.

The NRP said after the cabinet meeting that although it supports the peace pact, it will oppose any autonomy plan that threatened effective Israeli rule over the occupied territories, particularly the right to put up additional Jewish settlements.

Israeli plans for the treaty signing ceremony in Washington next week were leaked today by government officials.

Prime Minister and Mrs. Begin will leave Israel on Friday, while seven other ministers--all members of the government security and defence committee--will depart on Saturday night.

During Mr. Begin's absence Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, a prominent militant in the NRP, will serve as acting prime minister. Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who would normally serve in that capacity, will also attend the Washington ceremony.

Accompanying them will be leaders of the opposition Labour party, including former Defence Minister Shimon Peres, the party chairman, and former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In Washington, Israeli and Egyptian legal advisers met today to put what an Israeli spokesman described as final touches to their peace treaty and accompanying documents.

The meeting between Meir Rosenne of Israel and Ihab Wahba of Egypt, with U.S. legal adviser Herbert Hansell taking part, followed a weekend of talks between the Israeli and Egyptian defence ministers.

The Israeli spokesman's reference to final touches indicated more optimism than previous assessments by both Israeli and American officials.

U.S. officials said earlier that up to this morning Defence Minister Ezer Weizman of Israel and Kamal Hassan Ali of Egypt had not reached agreement on all points in the military annexes to the peace treaty.

But this would not affect the signing of a treaty, now expected to take place in Washington on March 26, the officials said.

Mr. Weizman and Gen. Ali scheduled separate meetings today with U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown to discuss final details of U.S. military aid packages expected to supplement the peace treaty.

Mr. Weizman said yesterday a formal defence treaty between Israel and the United States was "not a bad idea," although he added that it had been discussed only in general terms by Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Carter.

As the defence and legal talks wound up, a high-level U.S. delegation, led by National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, headed back to Washington from Saudi Arabia and Jordan where they explained the terms of the treaty worked out during President Carter's trip to Israel and Egypt. (See related story on this page).

Mr. Brzezinski apparently came away empty handed from his talks with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, whose country provides huge financial support for Egypt, and King Hussein of Jordan.

He said in Cairo yesterday he had constructive and useful talks in Riyadh and Amman and that the U.S. was "more convinced than ever before that the forthcoming peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is both the beginning and the cornerstone of a comprehensive peace treaty in the region."

But after a meeting to brief President Sadat on his hurriedly arranged weekend mission, he declined to answer questions on how he had fared in his efforts to win Saudi and Jordanian support.

The Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali, told reporters today that his country would explain its position at an Arab League foreign ministers conference due to be held in the Somali capital of Mogadishu later this month.

Israel clamps strict West Bank curfews

TEL AVIV, March 19(AP)--Israeli troops held two Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River under strict curfews Monday, and military spokesmen reported scattered demonstrations against the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

The number of demonstrations diminished from the high level of a week earlier, when President Carter was in the Middle East, and pupils were returning gradually to West Bank schools, an army spokesman said.

"We hope that things will be calmer in the next few days, but things aren't certain," an officer said.

The curfew in Halhul, 32 kilometres south of occupied Jerusalem, was in its fifth day following the killing of two young Palestinians in a clash with Israeli soldiers and civilians last Thursday. The clash occurred at a crude roadblock erected by Palestinian youths protesting what they regard as a sellout of their goal of an independent state.

The village of Beit Ur Al Tahta was ordered under curfew Sunday after disturbances on the road from Ramallah to Latrun.

Two Arabs were injured when their vehicles struck barricades of stones, the army spokesman said.

Small demonstrations of youths were reported in Nablus and Kalandia, and the spokesman said the most serious outbreak of the day was in Hebron, where students from a secondary school burned tyres and blocked a road before they were dispersed by troops.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel's military government forbade a meeting by local political leaders. Israel Radio said the Gazans had planned to discuss the role Gaza might assume under the Palestinian autonomy which is mandated in the Israel-Egypt agreement.

...gional Briefs

...S, March 19 (R)--Syria's Deputy Prime Minister and ...nister Abdel-Halim Khaddam leaves for London on ...on an official four-day visit to Britain, official sources ... During his stay he is expected to hold talks with ...retary David Owen and other senior officials on the ...le East developments and bilateral relations, the ...ed. He is also expected to go to Paris for similar talks.

...rch 19 (R)--A report issued by the French section of ...ternational said today that jailed Tunisian trade union ...e been tortured and some held in deplorable con... ...ost all leaders of the Tunisian trade union movement ...n prison following a general strike on Jan. 26 last year ...gainst rising prices and the government's economic ...ondon-based human rights organisation's report said. ...prisoned, Habib Achour, 66, Secretary-General of ...Union of Tunisian Workers (UGTT), was being held ...le conditions, as was Salah Ben Kaddour, the report ...

...March 19 (Agencies)--Kuwait and Hungary today ...e cooperation agreements covering medicine, civil ...information. The accords were concluded at the end ...n Premier Gyeorgy Lazar's three-day visit to this Gulf ...med sources said Mr. Lazar also discussed the pos... ...int ventures between the two countries. Mr. Lazar has ...ating for the purchase of Kuwaiti oil, to cover Hun... ...gy needs that are not covered by Soviet supplies, the ...ed.

...arch 19 (R)--Egypt said today it will support Iran's ...oin the non-aligned movement. A Foreign Ministry ... said that Egypt welcomes and will support Iran's ...oin. The spokesman said Egypt, as one of the founders ...ement, considered the increase of non-aligned coun... ...olidation for the movement's ideals. Iran announced ...wanted to join the non-aligned movement following ...al from CENTO (Central Treaty Organisation) sec... ...ormerly linking Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Britain, ...S. participating informally.

...arch 19 (R)--West Germany will provide North ...$17.5 million in aid under an agreement signed here ...erman help for Yemeni development plans. Official ... the funds would be spent on agriculture, industry, ... supply and the printing industry.

...March 19 (R)--Japan's Mitsui industrial group said ...decided to suspend for three months work on a $3.25 ...chemical complex at Bandar Shapur in Iran. Iran's ...rochemical Company had already agreed on the sus... ...n April 1, Mitsui Vice-President Toshikuni Yahiro ... conference. Work on the complex--a joint Iranian... ...nture--which includes an ethylene plant with a pro... ...l output of 300,000 tonnes, had been scheduled for ...next year. Mr. Yahiro, who returned from an inspec... ...ehran and Bandar Shapur on Saturday, said Japanese ... workers were having difficulty obtaining visas to go ...place other Japanese on the site.

Troop withdrawal completed between two Yemeni states

ADEN, March 19 (Agencies)--North and South Yemen re-established their common border today and the agreed withdrawal of forces has been completed, Arab League military officers said.

Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Mahmoud Younes, head of the Arab League committee formed when the two countries agreed to end a three-week border war, said forces had been pulled back around three North Yemeni towns - Qatabah, Damt and Hnrib.

The withdrawal was completed four days ahead of schedule, he said.

The fighting, the first since 1972, broke out on Feb. 23 along the ill-defined border between Marxist South Yemen and the Saudi-backed North. Each side accused the other of starting the conflict and the Arab League intervened to halt it.

North Yemeni Chief of Staff Lt.-Col. Ali Sheiba left Aden today on his way back to Sanaa after a 24-hour visit for normalisation talks with South Yemeni Chief of Staff Lt.-Col. Salem Abu Bakr.

A summit meeting between the two Yemens is to be held in Kuwait on March 28 to discuss all outstanding questions.

Arab stand against peace pact mooted

BEIRUT, March 19 (Agencies)--Syria's government daily newspaper Tishrin said today that contacts were now taking place between Syria and other Arab states to come up with a united Arab stand against the projected Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and United States pressures in the area.

The newspaper said that the next few days would witness Arab action on the international and Arab levels to face the "American-Zionist-Sadat" blot which constitutes a danger to the Arab nation and peace and security in the region and outside it.

Tishrin stressed that neither Syria nor other Arab countries would "enter into negotiations based on considering the proposed treaty as a starting point in a discussion of a Middle East settlement."

In Beirut, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was quoted today as saying the projected Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty could lead to war in the region.

In an interview with the weekly magazine Al Kifah Al Arabi, Sheikh Zayed said: "As one of the sons of the Middle East, I consider that the United States is not giving peace to any one.

"On the contrary, it will be responsible for wars and will leave behind greater division and aggression in the region."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said in an interview broadcast in America last night that President Carter had betrayed the Palestinian people in the latest Egyptian-Israeli peace moves in order to win Jewish votes for the next presidential election. In the CBS interview, conducted on Friday at PLO headquarters in Beirut, Mr. Arafat also said that the United States was pursuing a policy of "neo-colonialism" in the Middle East.

Mr. Arafat said United States was "insisting to play this role of colonialism--of neo-colonialism. But be sure that if you put a cat in the corner, it will defend itself. But you are not putting a cat, you are putting a tiger in the corner."

Mr. Arafat said: "I am sorry to say that what he is doing is only for some votes for the new elections...mainly it is Jewish votes".

He predicted that Saudi Arabia would declare itself against an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty "because I am sure that they can't betray the Palestinians..."

He also said the signing of a treaty would push the Middle East "to the direction of war."

The Palestinian leader said that elections under the control of the Israeli army on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be illegal.

He said that he would call for an oil embargo against both the United States and Egypt.

In another interview, published in Hamburg today, Mr. Arafat predicted a "volcano" of Arab opposition, partly within Egypt itself, to a peace treaty with Israel.

He told the news magazine Spiegel that several groups in Egypt opposed such a treaty, including supporters of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, the Moslem Brotherhood and the Communists.

In Abu Dhabi, the conservative newspaper Al Wahda today called for the establishment of an Egyptian government in exile, to counter the effort of President Sadat to sign a separate peace with Israel.

This government should be formed by "Honest people who have not been polluted by the separate peace agreement with the enemy," the paper added.

Kuwait, Hungary reject 'separate' peace agreements

KUWAIT, March 19 (R)--Kuwait and Hungary today asserted the futility of any separate agreements on the Middle East problem.

This was stated in a joint communique issued following a three-day visit to this Gulf state by Hungarian Premier Gyeorgy Lazar during which he held talks on strengthening bilateral relations, Middle East developments and other issues of mutual interest.

The communique called for the participation of all parties, including representatives of the Palestinian people, in all efforts to achieve a Middle East peace and that such efforts should be within the United Nations framework.

Hungary and Kuwait believed a permanent Middle East peace could not be realised without Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and restoring the national rights of Palestinian people as well as the establishment of their independent state under the leadership of their sole representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the communique said. It added Kuwait and Hungary were convinced that safeguarding the Gulf's security and stability was the responsibility of its states without any foreign intervention.

Both sides also stressed the need to make the Indian Ocean a region of peace, the communique said.

It added Kuwaiti Heir Apparent and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah had accepted Mr. Lazar's invitation to visit Hungary at a date to be fixed later.

JORDAN TIMES

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Listen and learn

WE SINCERELY hope that Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski's talks here in Jordan on Sunday, and in Saudi Arabia the day before, were as "useful and constructive," as he described them afterwards.

But the initial evidence is not very encouraging, as President Carter's national security adviser returns to Washington, after a stop in Cairo, to begin preparations for the signing soon of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Whatever the motives behind the Brzezinski delegation's flying tour, it at least afforded the U.S. another opportunity to hear, from Arab leaders whose views are highly regarded in Washington, the precise reasons why these leaders cannot subscribe to the terms of the proposed peace treaty, nor endorse the means by which it has been arrived at.

More to the point, as His Majesty King Hussein pointed out to Dr. Brzezinski on Sunday, the countries of this region do not share to the American view that some external forces constitute the greatest threat stability in this region, but feel, rather, that it is Israeli expansionism that constitutes the gravest, most immediate threat. The terms of the proposed Egyptian-Israeli treaty, with their vague and inadequate formulation for a Palestinian "self-rule" which in fact amounts to a legalisation of continued Israeli occupation of the Arab homeland, give Israel carte blanche to pursue the expansionist and colonialist tendencies that are an inalienable part of Zionist policy.

Another threat to Middle East stability stems from the cancer of disunity and recrimination which the treaty will, almost as if by design, engender. This is a threat which the Arab countries, within the coming weeks, will have to work out a common strategy to defuse.

No less "moderate" an Arab leader that the UAE's President Sheikh Zayed has now come forward with a useful summation of Arab concerns: that the projected treaty will bring not peace but war, and division, and further aggression.

It is somehow inconceivable that Dr. Brzezinski, after hearing such reasoned admonitions from such sage quarters, can now declare himself to be "encouraged" and "even more convinced than ever before that the forthcoming peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is both the beginning and the cornerstone of a comprehensive peace treaty in the region."

It is one thing to conclude that if Dr. Brzezinski came into this region somehow to wear down our firm resolution to stand firm against the greatest threat to our peace and security in 30 years, then he failed. It is quite another thing to have to conclude, sadly, that if he came to listen, he apparently failed at that as well.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

JORDANIAN PAPERS SUNDAY carry comments on the visit recently paid by President Carter's advisor for national security affairs, Mr. Brzezinski, to both Saudi Arabia and Jordan:

AL RA'I says that Jordan's stand has always been a national and principled one, not built on reaction to crises or taken on the spur of the moment; therefore it can not be influenced by policies of intimidation or otherwise. Jordan, the paper adds, has always followed a policy of moderation in the area, but moderation does not necessarily lead to capitulation or submission to the will of aggressors. Jordan does not have the right to barter the rights of the Palestinians. "We are for a just and comprehensive peace that will guarantee the Palestinians the restoration of their rights and territories. It is true that Jordan does not have the power to impose an equitable peace, but it does have the free will to say "NO" to semi-solution," the paper concludes.

AL DUSTOUR says that U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown previously visited Saudi Arabia and Jordan with the object of talking them into accepting the terms of the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli coalition; and since his mission failed to achieve its purpose, the United States has decided to send Mr. Brzezinski to the area in order to neutralise the Jordanian-Saudi position with respect to the Camp David accord. In other words, the paper continues, Washington wants both Amman and Riyadh to adopt a neutral position visa-vis the Arab cause. Jordan is commited to work for comprehensive peace based on full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Washington would do well to understand that it is impossible to try to make other Arab parties join the Cairo-Tel Aviv-Washington axis, or at least to adopt a neutral position concerning the Arab cause. The international community could give real help to the region by joining efforts to achieve real peace in the Middle East, the paper concludes.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre is displaying photo exhibit on "80 Years of French Cinema" during regular hours.

French Film Festival

The French Cultural Centre presents a film festival at the Rainbow Cinema at 8:30 p.m. Tonight's film is Michel Vianey's "Un type comme moi ne devrait jamais mourir." Tickets are available at the Centre.

Locally led syndicate of banks to refinance $12m. Syrian-Jordanian Transport Co. loan.

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 19--The gradual development of more sophisticated banking capabilities in Jordan has received another boost this month with the move by a locally led syndicate of banks to refinance a long-term loan for the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company.

The Arab-Jordan Investment Bank is agent for the refinancing of the $12 million, six-year credit that was signed two years ago with the Paris-based FRAB-Bank International, a consortium bank representing European, Japanese and Arabian Gulf interests.

The Arab-Jordan Investment Bank has now finalised the refinancing agreement to lend the Syrian-Jordanian Land Transport Company JD 3.5 million for seven years at a lower interest rate than was originally charged for the $12 million loan. The new loan in Jordanian dinars has a two year grace period and is guaranteed by the governments of Jordan and Syria.

Equally significant with the fact that the agent for the refinancing project is a young Jordanian bank with strong links with Arab interests in the Gulf is that the JD 3.5 million is being fully provided by a syndicate of four local banks, which, with the Arab-Jordan Investment Bank, includes the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank and Petra Bank.

The refinancing of this loan is seen by local financial circles as affirming the ability of the Jordanian banking sector to provide medium-term capital in Jordanian dinars for local industries and service companies, such as travel or tourism schemes. It is also evidence of the recent realisation by local banking authorities that small-scale loans of between JD 1 million and JD 5 million can be syndicated among Jordanian banks, and in most cases make a Jordanian syndication more attractive than an international loan.

It is anticipated that another locally syndicated loan of around the same size as this one will be signed very soon. This is a loan being handled by Citibank for the new Sheraton hotel project.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Shmeisani traffic

Sir,

As a resident of Jordan for 16 years and of Shmeisani for 14, I have seen many changes in the traffic patterns. The many improvements that have occurred I appreciate and the sensible changes resulting I have approved and applauded. Though I am a licensed driver, I don't pretend to be an authority on traffic patterns in this city, but as a resident of Shmeisani, I do feel that I am more knowledgeable than most on the streets immediately surrounding our home.

The development occurring with the Tower Hotel, which was closely followed by restaurants, supermarkets, taxi stands, hair salons, pharmacies, etc., combined with the heavy traffic resulting from a detour because of highway construction, has caused a remarkable increase in traffic in our area. We felt however, most fortunate to have a wide, well-paved road to manoeuvre on.

Alas, this is no longer true. Our once wide road has now been cut down the middle by a medial strip. This has resulted in single-lane passage of cars and parking problems for all the shops. The medial strip has also closed the access to cross roads, resulting in people either meeting oncoming traffic going the wrong way, or forcing them down to the most congested part of the street in order to turn around. Even this is difficult because of the small space available. One has to turn, back up, avoid the parked cars at the Tower Hotel, until you are finally able to get around the divider to reverse direction.

I do understand the necessity of having regulations and, in certain situations limited access. We have all witnessed Wadi Seer road and the improvement resulting from limiting the crossroads. However, it runs through a residential area and not through an extremely busy shopping section. By limiting the crossroads in our area above the business end, all the traffic has been diverted to the most congested section.

I wonder who studied the pattern in this area and if they took this into consideration. Over the past months, I have tried to adjust my driving to avoid this congested area. Now, however, I not only can not avoid the area, but unless I disobey traffic regulations, I *must* drive down to this section of Shmeisani, regardless of where I might be planning to go.

I suggest that once again this street be studied, and instead of encouraging people to break the law, at least one of the cross roads be reopened above the business district. This would enable one to avoid the traffic congestion occurring down the street and hopefully would relieve some of the traffic in the process.

Karen Asfour

Amman
March 16, 1979

4 important appointments approved by cabinet

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--Dr. Jawad Al 'Anani is to become Director general of the Social Security Corporation. His present post as under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour is to be taken over by Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, currently secretary general of the National Planning Council. Dr. Abdel Jaber is to be replaced by Mr. Basel Jardaneh, whose position as director of the Pension Fund will be taken over by Mr. Wasef Azar. These new appointments were approved yesterday by the cabinet.

Ma'een hot springs to be developed

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--A company is to be set up to further develop Ma'een hot springs for tourism. 51 per cent of the company's capital of JD 2.5 million is to be owned by the government and the remainder by the private sector. The cabinet yesterday approved the establishment of the company.

Her Highness Princess Sarvath (third from right on front row) listens to a speech by Mrs. Khawla Abu Odeh at the inauguration of work on the new centre for mentally retarded children at Al B on Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Mo'mina Ba standing to her right.

Construction of new schoo for retarded inaugurated

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN, March 19--Her Highness Princess Sarvath officially inaugurated construction work on a new centre for mentally handicapped children 20 kilometres outside Amman on Sunday afternoon. At the brief ceremony during which she unveiled an inscribed cornerstone crowds shivered in bitterly cold winds. The ceremony was attended by Mrs. Mo'mina Badran, Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a number of ambassadors and their wives and a lot of Korean workmen from the company to do the building work, conspicuous in bright yellow and white safety helmets and blue overalls.

The specially designed school and pre-vocational centre will have places for 150 children between the ages of four and 18 years, Mrs. Ferial Hamed the secretary of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) told the Jordan Times at the unveiling ceremony.

The new centre will be on five dunums of land donated to the YWMA at Al 'Binayat, 20 kilometres from Amman on the road to Na'ur. At present the only indication of the site is a the main Amman-N which does not tell yo site is actually so kilometres off the main a rough secondary road

Not a few guests lost and turned up only minu the unveiling. However tion will not be a prob Hamed said, because th will be bussed to and school and will stay lunch.

At present the YWM for mentally children—which was 1974—is housed in a re ing near Al Hussein and can only cope wi dren. They are tang skills to enable them a everyday life in additi academic studies. T attending the centre re ing to the means of th

When the new cen for use the existing on will be turned into a home for mentally children. Money for th been raised by the which Princess President at various activities over the

The centre will mildly and moderate possibly with ag 40 and 60. field training from teachers social students vice might in other

Apart education school provide counselling assessment need the school

The four main pre-school pre-vocational a workshop secto retarded young adu

With only the fo and a couple o trenches as evid impending construc not much to look a mony only la minutes—thankfully had been lared by bright sunshine summer clothes o out to be a bluster

Contracts & Grants

Electricity Authority director leaves for W. Germany and Britain

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--Director of the Jordan Electricity Authority Ali Nsour left for West Germany and Britain today. He will hold talks with officials of the West German Development Bank and energy officials in Britain to try and obtain loans to finance electricity projects in the Jordan Valley Region and the first phase of the electrification project in southern Jordan.

Awqaf minister off to Mecca meet

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA) -- Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif left for Saudi Arabia yesterday to take part in the conference of Arab Awqaf ministers due to start in Mecca tomorrow. The Minister, who is accompanied by two officials from his Ministry, will present several memos on the Moslem pilgrimage, endowments and other religious affairs to the conference.

Transport minister leaves for Greece and W. Germany

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA) -- Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat left for a week-long visit to Greece and West Germany today. During the visit to Greece he will sign a land transport agreement which will facilitate transport and transit between Jordan and Greece. He will also hold talks with Greek civil aviation officials dealing with air transport between the two countries. While in West Germany, the Minister will sign a 1million German Mark loan agreement to finance the purchase of cranes and other equipement for the Aqaba port. Mr Suheimat will sign another agreement providing Jordan with a JD 1.5 million grant to cover the cost of employing West German experts to work for the Aqaba Railway Corporation. During the visit to West Germany, the Minister and his accompanying delegation from the Ministry of Transport, the Directorate of Civil Aviation and Alia will be briefed on railroad administration.

Statistics Dept. director returns from Baghdad

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)— Director General of the Statistics Department Shuja' Al Assad returned here from Baghdad yesterday after taking part in a week of meetings of the board of trustees and the technical committee of the Arab statistics institute. He said the institute has approved the dispatch of 27 of its students to obtain further training at the Jordanian statistics training centre in 1979 and 1980. Delegates from eleven Arab states and eleven Arab and international organisations took part in the conference.

Civil Status Dept. director back from Britain

AMMAN, March 19 (J.T.)--Civil Status Department Director Mr. Rifai Hazaimeh returned from a 12-day visit to Britain today. While there he discussed with officials plans for sending Jordanians to Britain to receive training in keeping records and archives. Mr. Hazaimeh set up the civil status department in the Jordanian Ministry of Interior to act as a centre for information on all Jordan's citizens. In Britain he looked at how personal information is handled in big quantities. He visited one of the largest computer balls in Europe when he went to Swansea in Wales, to an address known to every driver in Britain: the driver and vehicle licensing centre. There he saw the data conversion centre where information on all the licence application forms is converted into language that computers can understand, and the computer hall with its records of 20 million vehicles and 25 million drivers. A more personal kind of record was demonstrated to him at a busy London Register Office, that of St. Marylebone. There the superintendent registrar and his staff record some 2000 births and 2500 deaths every year and officiate at 2500 civil marriages. Mr. Hazaimeh also visited, and had discussions at, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police.

NCC condemns separate Egyptian-Israeli treaty

Awni Bader
of the Jordan Times

March 19 — The Consultative Council condemned the separate agreement which is to be signed between Egypt and Israel. The declaration of position also lauded "the leading stands Jordan...following the ...e of his Majesty King ...h set a splendid exam... his wise and adroit ...f the ship of state ...storms" and the dif... ...cumstances through ...an is passing. The NCC ...d the "clear and firm Prime Minister Mudar ...called on "sister Arab ...ndly nations and all the ...g forces in the world to denounce and frustrate the agreement." It also called on the Arab states "to show more cohesion and alertness" in order to ensure the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions.

The NCC further invited other Arab countries to lend more support to the confrontation states, the PLO and the Arabs living in the occupied territories. Such support would enable the confrontation states to frustrate "the ominous impact of the agreement, the dangers of which threaten not only the confrontation states, but all the Arab World as well," the declaration added.

The declaration of position, which was endorsed by the majority of votes, was proposed by council member Jawdat Al Suboul at the beginning of the session.

The NCC called on the government to issue a statement on its position with respect to the agreement. It also asked for a statement by the government explaining the circumstances which brought about the explosion at the village of Um Al Basatin near Amman. The NCC asked the government to issue another statement concerning the circumstances which led to the Alia plane crash in Qatar.

The NCC also listened to replies by the government to nine queries previously submitted by council members. These deal with the opening of new schools, clinics and mother and child health centres in remote regions. The other questions concern the opening of a grievance bureaus, and controls over bars, night clubs and movie theaters. Finally the council ratified the amended draft law for the dentists' association.

...ree young brothers ...nd unique artifacts

...Jordan Times
...ff reporter

...March 19--Mr. and ...Harrell, suits Erik ...d twins Mathew and ...d 8, met with Dr. ...Hadi, Director of the ...of Antiquities, in his ...rday morning to da... ...logical finds the boys ...di congratulated the ...r discoveries. He said ...inary examination of ...they had found at Tell ...the Jordan Valley indicates that they are unique artifacts from the early Bronze Age. A pottery lamp and figurine from the Tell Deir Alla site are also rare pieces. He said the archaeological team working at Tell Deir Alla will analyse each artifact and make a report. The Harrells will receive a copy of the report and photographs of the items.

"Your name will be on them," he told the Harrells, "and we will remember you always."

Dr. Hadidi expressed appreciation for their cooperative attitude. "I wish everyone felt the same as you do," he said. "We can't work without the cooperation of the public."

Mr. Harrell said the family enjoyed visiting archaeological sites in Jordan. "It's good for us to get out together to see the country," he said.

The Harrells live near an ancient tower, Rujm al Mallut, South, which dates from the Babylonian era. The boys became interested in looking for artifacts while exploring it.

Erik, Philip, Mathew all say they want to be archaeologists when they grow up.

...Hadidi with Mathew (R), Erik (standing) and Philip Harrell, young discoverers of unique artifacts.

...IMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
...roleum Co.	JD 5.000	8,597	—	7.000	6.950
...nent Factories	JD 10.000	1,928	—	—	14.800
...sphate Mines	JD 1.000	1,710	2.140	2.160	2.150
...lf Bank	JD 1.000	1,248	1.040	1.050	1.040
...a Development and ... Co.	JD 1.000	1,863	2.250	2.300	2.300
...ining Co.	JD 1.000	1,024	0.920	0.950	5.100
...amic Industries	JD 1.000	655	0.910	0.920	0.910
...anium Co.	JD 1.000	188	0.930	0.940	0.940
... Commercial And ...l Co.	JD 1.000	1,658	—	2.670	2.620
... Cardboard Factories	JD 1.000	123	760	—	0.750
...ning Co.	JD 5.000	2,783	—	11.500	11.000
...rsted Mills Co.	JD 1.000	609	—	—	1.670
...ning and Weaving Co.	JD 1.000	71	—	0.730	0.710

...ue traded, Monday, March 19: JD 22,457
...ber of shares traded: 7,707

	Par Value	Volume Traded	Number Traded	Year of Maturity	Selling Price
...at Development Bonds	JD 5.000	90	18	1979	5.020
	5.000	255	50	1980	5.100
	10.000	112	11	1988	10.200

...e traded: JD 457
...er of bonds traded: 793

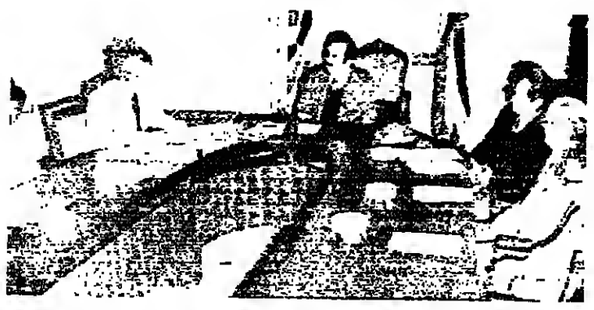
Weekly News Roundup

Cooperatives director, U.N. delegation discuss Palestinian problem

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--Director General of the Jordan Cooperatives Organisation Hassan Nabulsi discussed with a delegation representing a number of specialised U.N. agencies the granting of U.N. aid to cooperatives in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Nabulsi briefed the delegation on the conditions of cooperative societies and difficulties they are facing because of the Israeli occupation. The delegation, which is on a tour of several Arab states, is meeting with several Jordanian officials during its stay in Jordan. The United Nations earlier this year had requested UNESCO, FAO and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) to study conditions of people in the occupied Arab territories in order to assess what U.N. aid to them should be.

5 Arab states to hold population symposium

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--A symposium on population in the West Asia region will be held here towards the end of this month. Taking part in the two-day symposium will be delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait and the Yemen Arab Republic. They will study working papers on fertility and death rates in these countries.



His Highness Prince Mohammed meets with the Higher Committee for Tourism.

Prince Mohammad urges tourism committee to make development plan

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The Higher Committee for Tourism held a meeting at the Royal Court today under the chairmanship of His Highness Prince Mohammad. The committee reviewed tourist activities in Jordan in general and in Aqaba in particular over the past six months. The Prince urged the committee to draw up plans to develop tourism in the country. In this connection the committee decided to work out a comprehensive plan for future tourist development in Aqaba.

Railway to choose feasibility study next month

DAMASCUS, March 19 (JNA)--The Higher Commission of the Hijaz Railway is to hold its next session in Amman early next month, Syrian Minister of Transport Salim Yassin announced here yesterday. During the meeting the commission will take a final decision on concluding a contract with one of the three foreign firms which have bid to carry out a feasibility study on the reactivation of the Hijaz Railway connecting Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, the Minister said. The commission will also work out a general outline for the administration and financing of the railway which is estimated to cost 22 million Syrian liras. The Commission is composed of the transport ministers of Syria and Jordan and the Saudi minister of communication.

4 Jordanian scientists to attend EEC solar conference

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--Four Jordanian scientists have received invitations to take part in a EEC (European Economic Community) solar energy conference to open in Italy on March 25. During the five day conference nearly 300 world scientists will try to draw up an international policy for applying methods of exploiting solar energy for industry, agriculture and home needs. The Jordanian scientists are: Dr. Fakhreddine Al Daghestani, Deputy Director of the Royal Scientific Society, Dr. Subhi al Qasem, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, Ali Nsour, Director General of the Electricity Authority, and Samir Ka'war from the Telecommunications Corporation.

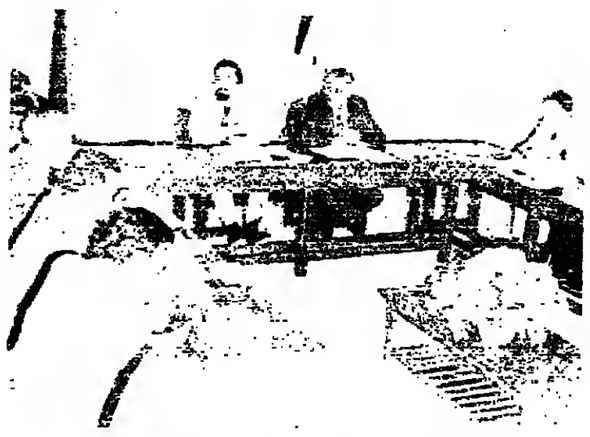
Ministry of Tourism to hold symposium

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will open a two-day symposium on tourism in Jordan on March 27, a Ministry spokesman announced here today. He said participants will discuss working papers dealing with ways of developing the tourism industry in the country. Representatives from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Jordanian hotels and organisers of tourist trips to Jordan will take part in the symposium.

TODAY'S WEATHER

An increase in temperature will occur tomorrow with medium and high clouds. Winds will be light variable, changing to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba Gulf winds will be northerly moderate with calm seas.

Temperatures	Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
Amman	6	21
Aqaba	13	27
Jordan Valley	14	26
Deserts	7	24



His Highness Prince Hassan chairs a steering committee meeting planning for a major conference on palestinian issues. On his left is President of the University of Jordan Nasereddin A' Assad.

Prince Hassan chairs conference steering committee meet

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The preparatory committee of the Greater Syria conference held a meeting at the University of Jordan today under the chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The Crown Prince discussed with the committee subjects on the agenda of the conference which will be held in April next year. He instructed the committee members to give priority to the Palestine problem and the subject of Jerusalem and Arab Palestinian rights over the ages during the conference. The University President, Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad, spoke during the meeting about the different subjects to be discussed in the conference.

Alia's JD 50 m. 1979 budget approved by cabinet

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The cabinet in its session yesterday approved the JD 50 million 1979 budget of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Cabinet approves Social Security Corp. loan

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The cabinet today decided to grant the Social Security Corporation JD 50,000 in addition to a JD 100,000 loan to be repaid over three years. The money will finance the initial formation and administrative stages of the newly formed corporation.

Civil Defence director meets with bottled gas distributors

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--Director of Civil Defence Maj. Gen. Khalid Al Tarawneh held a meeting today with the union members of bottled gas distributors association in Jordan. During the meeting they discussed the dangers posed by the storing of bottled gas within the cities, and the possibility of moving stores to other places. Mr. Tarawneh stressed that once the stores have been moved, they should be provided with wireless systems and fire engines. This will be done in coordination with the Ministries of Interior and Trade, the Jordan Refinery and the Directorate of Civil Defence. Saying that several bottled gas stores do not apply safety measures in storing gas, Mr. Tarawneh proposed that the Jordan refinery build special stores which would be let out and to gas distributors.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	299.00/301.00
U.K. sterling	607.00/611.00
West German mark	160.30/161.30
Swiss franc	177.60/178.70
French franc	69.70/70.10
Italian lire (for every 1001)	35.50/35.70
Japanese yen (for every 1001)	144.10/145.00
Dutch guilder	148.50/149.40
Belgian franc (for every ten)	101.50/102.10
Swedish crown	68.50/68.90

Three M exhibition opens in Damascus

DAMASCUS, March 19 (J.T.)--Dr. Hammad Hamadi, Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade, and the Syrian Marketing Technology are sponsoring a Three M exhibition Wednesday, March 28, and Thursday, March 29, in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel.

The public is invited to view the latest in Three-M microfiche systems, telephone receivers, duplicating machines and visual products from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days.

King to decorate 50 veteran teachers

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA) — A teacher's day celebration will be held at the Palace of Culture tomorrow under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The King is scheduled to deliver a speech on the occasion and will decorate some 50 veteran teachers with medals in recognition of their role in the field of education.

Explosion victims to get aid

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)— The Social Affairs Department today gave financial and material aid to the families of victims that died in the Um Al Basatin depot explosion last week. The department also decided to give permanent, regular aid to some of these families.

According to the department's director general, the department in cooperation with CARE (Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere) will immediately distribute blankets and clothing to the stricken families. The Jordanian Armed Forces are already supplying tents to these families.

Prince Hassan celebrates 33rd birthday

AMMAN, March 19--His Highness Crown Prince Hassan will celebrate his thirty third birthday Tuesday.

Islamic conference praises Iran revolution

AMMAN, March 19 (JNA)--The General Islamic Conference for Holy Places has issued a statement lauding the Iranian Islamic revolution as a pillar of the Islamic civilisation and a powerful arm for peace and justice in the world. The statement appealed to both the Iranian people and the Islamic peoples at large to support the Iranian revolution.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

South Korean takes flyweight boxing title

PUSAN, South Korea, March 19 (R) -- South Korean Park Chan-hee won the World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title by pounding out a unanimous points verdict over champion Miguel Canto of Mexico, here last night. Canto, 31, making his 15th defence since capturing the title from Japan's Shji Okuma in 1975, could not match the speed and power of the 23-year-old Korean, who dominated the bout almost throughout, repeatedly scoring with fast, two-fisted attacks to the face. Mexican judge Escalente Jose made Park ahead 147-146 while American referee Rudy Ortega and the Korean judge saw the bout 148-145 and 150-141 respectively in favour of the challenger.

San Diego Clippers continue winning streak

NEW YORK, (AP) -- The San Diego Clippers haven't even clinched a National Basketball Association playoff berth yet but they're thinking bigger and better things. "This team can go all the way," said Lloyd Free, who scored 15 of his game-high 31 points in the fourth period Sunday as the Clippers beat the New Jersey Nets 110-98. "I still don't think we're being taken seriously by everyone, but we're serious." The triumph was the fifth in a row for the Clippers, who have won 13 of their last 14 games and 11 straight at home. The Nets have dropped five in a row and nine of 11. The Clippers, who are locked in a battle with the Denver Nuggets and Portland Trail Blazers for the final two playoff berths in the Western Conference, led all the way, moving out to a 34-17 lead after one quarter when the Nets made only eight of 29 shots. Elsewhere, the Milwaukee Bucks whipped the San Antonio Spurs 147-127, the Washington Bullets outshot the Cleveland Cavaliers 126-112, the Kansas City Kings downed the Chicago Bulls 114-103, the New Orleans Jazz shaded the Phoenix Suns 121-117, the Los Angeles Lakers trimmed the Boston Celtics 122-111 and the *Philadelphia 76ers trounced the New York Knicks 106-90.*

English League soccer award announced

LONDON, March 19 (R) -- Arsenal and Irish International midfield player Liam Brady has been voted "player of the year" by his colleagues in English League soccer. Brady received the award last night at the Professional Footballers' Association annual dinner. Five players were named as joint runners-up including Osvaldo Ardiles, the Argentine World Cup star who now plays for Tottenham Hotspur. Cyrille Regis, the French Guiana-born West Bromwich Albion striker was voted "young player of the year."

Swede sets new World Cup slalom record

FURANO, Japan (AP)--Ingemar Stenmark, the steely master technician of skiing, completed a perfect giant slalom season and set a World Cup victory record Monday as Anne Marie Moser-Proell of Austria won her sixth World Cup with a tremendous finish under pressure. Marie-Theres Nadig of Switzerland almost stole the show by winning the women's giant slalom race by 5.20 seconds, a margin believed to be a World Cup record. But Moser-Proell's second was enough for the overall points victory. Heini Hemmi of Switzerland, the 1976, Olympic giant slalom gold medalist who is retiring this season, finished by taking second place, more than 1.5 seconds behind Stenmark, in the men's giant slalom. Stenmark, who also won his third slalom race nf th season Saturday, ended up with 13 victories for the season including all 10 giant slaloms, breaking the record of 12 set by Jean-claude Killy of France. Stenmark was fastest by almost four-tenths of a second in the first run and 1.2 seconds in the second, finishing in 2 minutes 58.59 seconds to 3:00.15 for Hemmi and 3:00.41 for Jean Luc Fournier of Switzerland. He said later, however, he has no feeling of being the king of alpine skiing. The three-time World Cup champion ended up fifth overall this year because he does not enter downhill races and new rules this season limit the number of points any skier can pick up in any one specialty. This year's cup already had been clinched by Peter lueycher of Switzerland, who was seventh in 3:02.13 in Monday's final race.

Final standings in men's World Cup ski series:

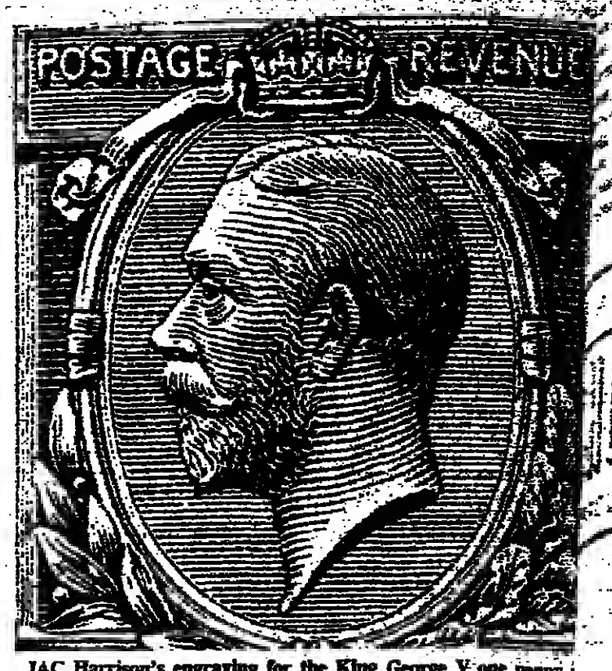
1. Peter Luescher, Switzerland, 186 2. Leonhard stock, Austria, 163 3. Phil Mahre, U.S., 155 4. Piero Gros, Italy, 152 5. Ingemar Stenmark, Sweden, 150 6. Andreas Wenzel, Liechtenstein, 148 7. Anton Steiner, Austria, 107 8. Bojan Krizaj, Yugoslavia, 106 9. Gustavo Thoeni, Italy, 91 10. Steve Mahre, U.S. 86

Overweight Muhammad Ali to retire as boxing champion

SYDNEY, March 19 (R) -- Muhammad Ali told drenched fans at the Sydney Sports ground yesterday that he would retire as world heavyweight boxing champion in one month. Speaking after two lifeless exhibition bouts, Ali apologised to the crowd for not giving his best saying that he was 20 pounds (nine kilos) overweight and ready for retirement. "There is nothing greater I can do in boxing and I am going to get out as the only man to win the title three times," Ali said. Ali made heavy weather of three exhibition rounds with American Jimmy Ellis, and then clowned his way through three more with Joe Bugner, the former British and European heavyweight champion.

Stamp enlargements honour engraver

Too often when recess or surface printed stamp designs are studied, the designer receives all the praise. Seldom is the skill of the engraver acknowledged. An exception is the late J.A.C. Harrison. The British Library has begun publication of a series of six portfolios devoted to the work of this master of minuscule engraving.



JAC Harrison's engraving for the King George V one penny stamp of 1912.

By Kenneth F. Chapman

It is, in part, the minuscule nature of stamp designs which appeals to many collectors. Paradoxically, enlargements of those designs, revealing details difficult to appreciate on the stamps themselves, also fascinate philatelists.

The British Library, which houses many stamp collections belonging to the nation, has recently embarked on the production of a series of portfolios containing enlarged prints of selected stamps. The first six, each composing six prints, is being devoted to the work of J.A.C. Harrison, an acknowledged master of this form of miniature portrait engraving.

John Augustus Charles Harrison was born in Manchester in 1872, the son of an engraver and grandson of an heraldic designer. From them he inherited and developed the talents which he began to exercise at the age of 11 as an apprentice to his father.

An engraver can be no more than a copyist -- and he can be an artist in his own right. Harrison was both.

Thus, the British Library portfolios will cater for students on engraving seeking to understand the techniques of a master as well as stamp collectors who will welcome the enlargements simply as pictures.

The first portfolio ("A Stamp is Born") is a study of a single issue with which Harrison was particularly associated — the King George V 1912 1 penny red. The sculptor, Sir Bertram Meckennal, had made a relief model of the king's head for the King George V Coronation Medal. From this Harrison prepared a pen and ink drawing of the head against a background of close horizontal lines. This drawings provides the first print in the portfolio.

Reduced to stamp size, it was faithfully reproduced on the steel die, and an enlargement of a proof pull from the die is the subject of the second print. There follow enlargements of the design through three further stages of the die as the frame surrounding the head developed. The final print shows the completed stamp as issued.

The five other portfolios will also deal with Harrison's stamp engravings and demonstrate his versatility with the burin.

Stamp portraits call for a faithful likeness: scenic subjects require a delicate treatment which loses nothing of the artwork provided by the designer and yet remains clear cut to allow crisp printing. Harrison was the leading engraver of both types of these miniature masterpieces.

After his apprenticeship Harrison joined Waterlow Brothers and Layton in 1887 as an ornamental engraver. He remained with the firm until 1899 when he turned to freelance work. Fifty years later he was still engraving stamp dies. One portfolio will be devoted to the North Borneo pictorial stamps of that period -- 1939. They are as delicate as his earlier work and reveal the touch of a hand that has lost none of its cunning.

Almost 20 years earlier there had been the 1921 pictorials of Jamaica which are still regarded as the finest engravings of their day. They will provide prints for another portfolio.

Prints based on Harrison's engravings for Maltese issues featuring famous statues to which he gave backgrounds of his own devising will comprise the fourth in the portfolio series.

The remaining two portfolios will revert to portraiture. One will concentrate on royalty (including the unused King Edward VIII design: the king abdicated before the stamp could be issued) and the other on portraits from Chilean history, ranging from Christopher Columbus to Juan Jose Latorre Benavente, whose naval and political exploits up to his death in 1912 made him a national figure.

All these will provide firm evidence of Harrison's ability to give character to each face, however small it might appear on the finished stamp.

The importance of the whole portfolio venture is highlighted by the virtual disappearance in recent years of plate printed or letterpress printed stamps. Rotary photogravure and offset lithography do not require engraved dies, either recess or in relief, and the printing is faster and che Stamp engravers, indeed, dying race and the Britisl rary's tribute to one of the gr of them is timely indeed.

The prints, each 203 x 24 are on medium weight pard and can be framed withou mounting.

Each portfolio of six prin suitable text costs £2. The re ing five portfolios are in duction and will be av shortly.

The British Library anti a demand for them from me of the public — among whon is a growing appreciati artforms which modern te ogy is gradually replacing well as from philatelists.

Engravings continue to l more expensive, but many rison's miniatures — as st remain available for r sums. The enlarged p prints add greatly to the p of owning the originals an illustrate the expertise wi the hallmark of all of his work.

هكذا من الأصل

...ety badges of bikes

...—The law requires that every private car in West Ger... every two years. Car owners whose vehicles pass ...then given a round sticker to put on their car windows. ...ly, there is no corresponding procedure to test the road... of bicycles, despite the fact that bike-riding practices ...by the German Automobile Club have shown that one in ...has something wrong with it. The suggestion has therefore ...that bikes too should be checked for roadworthiness. Such ...are now being conducted in some areas. Every bike rider ...rarily, takes his bike along to be checked at the local police ...a badge of quality if his two-wheeler is passed fit. Children ...have responded enthusiastically to the scheme. (DpA)

...ECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1979

...our Daily HOROSCOPE

...he CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

...ERAL TENDENCIES: Listen to what others ...say and try to get along as well as possible with ...points which they have expressed, otherwise un... friction could take place. Night is the best time ... to a meeting of minds with others.

...S (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be careful not to enter into ...uments with others or they could turn into hurtful ...ollow the philosophy of life that most appeals to ...ke no risks with your good name.

...RUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep promises you have ...to others conscientiously. Listen to the ideas of ...although they differ from your own.

...INI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid being impulsive ...associates are concerned or there would be a ...of connections. Handle a community affair will ...your experience in the past.

...N CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Schedule ...arly and carry through in a positive fashion others ...accomplish little. Don't neglect treating a minor ...ailment.

...(July 22 to Aug. 21) Don't change your plans now ...se out. Try not to argue with loved ones but show ...fection. Watch your diet for better health.

...O (Aug. 22 to Sept. 23) You have to be more ...tic at home if potential arguments are to be avoided ...'t permit a close tie to boss you so much.

...A (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Search for the data you ... order to make your work or business dealings ...ccessful, efficient. Evening is best time to visit ...od friends, relatives.

...PIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't spend more than ... easily afford. Build up a reserve instead. Think ...ou can get big, but first study projects carefully ...ou invest even one penny.

...TTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to let ...just to get rid of an annoying person, but hide ...e and handle the matter more reasonably. Hold ...tings in the late afternoon for best results.

...ICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to expend ...rgies in more worthwhile directions early. Go to ... for advice, then follow it without delay.

...RIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You feel like criticizing ...because you don't approve of his or her actions; ...t to keep out of it. Wait until evening for gre... ...ther with good friends.

...S (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't buck one in a power... ...on or you could get in big trouble, but be helpful. Be more willing to compromise in a financial deal ...ther. Know that half a loaf is better than none.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

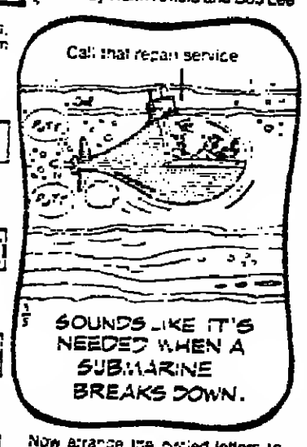
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words:

REGUP

WENOM

DEPENX

TORTOG



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: AN "_____-___" (Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: FROZE PAGAN STURDY MAPLIN

Answer: He's not the only one in his business—A PARTNER

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes

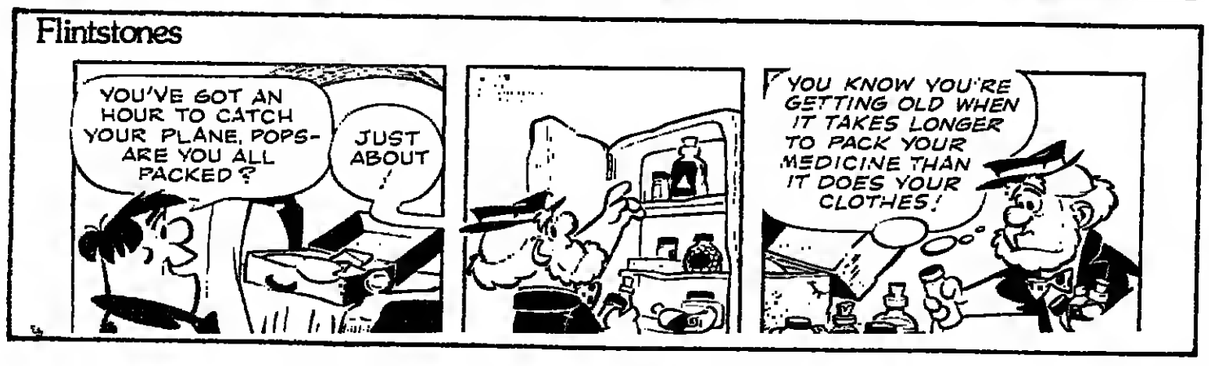
"This tastes like you've been playing bridge all afternoon."

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt 'n' Jeff

Flintstones

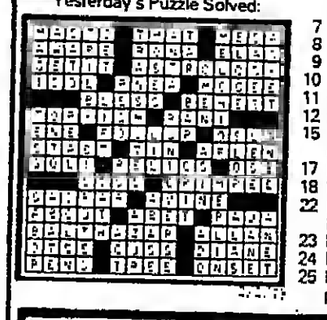


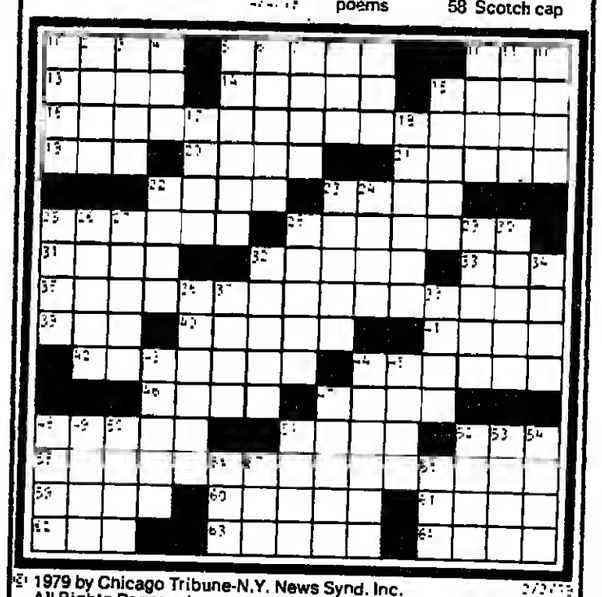
THE Daily Crossword by Sidney L. Robbins

ACROSS
1 Ferber
5 Taste with relish
10 Buddy
13 Baby buggy
14 Macaw
15 Solo
16 Henry VIII specialty
19 Self
20 Greek contest
21 La Douce et al.
22 Eject
23 Chesterfield
25 Overjoyed
28 Aromatic ointments
31 Art school
32 Of sound
33 Cereal grass
35 Alcoholic's problem
39 Ripen
40 Madrid pal
41 To be in Paris
42 Offers more
44 Biblical land
46 Mystical saying
47 Contemptible ones
48 Camera
51 Not on tape
52 Arafat's group
55 16A-35A result
59 "Of — I sing"
60 Kiel, for one
61 Chinese port
62 Superlative suffix
63 Hebrew measures
64 Tailless cat

DOWN
1 Sword
2 Haul
3 Western alliance
4 Paris pal
5 Yielded through weakness
6 Direction sign
7 Conceited
8 Cetacean
9 Cheer
10 Dance
11 Opera
12 Maiden
15 Blood carrier
17 Neck part
18 Debacle
22 Laurel or Kenton
23 Poem part
24 Mixture
25 Icelandic poems
26 Slow movement
27 Goodbye, mes amies
28 Late Rep. Hale —
29 Oral opening
30 — bleu!
32 Nasty
34 At that time
36 Japanese drama
37 "— the Mood for ..."
38 Army chow
43 Barter
44 Judge's items
45 Poetic works
47 Havana, for one
48 "Kiss Me —"
49 Publisher
50 Food regimen
51 Head or dead
52 Arizona Indian
53 Diving bird
54 Gem
56 Sgt. or cpl.
57 Hoover, for one
58 Scotch cap

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:





...REN BRIDGE

...LES H. GOREN
...MAR SHARIF
...y Chicago Tribune

...er vulnerable, as ...hold:
...K762 ♡952 ♦AJ7
...g has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
	2 ♡	Pass	
?			

...ou bid now?

... vulnerable, as ...hold:
...J7 ♡AQ72 ♦94
...g has proceeded:

South	West
1 ♦	Pass
?	

...n do you take?

... vulnerable, as ...hold:
...A6 ♡973 ♦842
...g has proceeded:

South	
?	

...n do you take?

...outh, vulnerable.
...AKQJ7 ♡8 ♦73
... has proceeded:

North	East
1 ♦	2 ♣
?	

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKQ104 ♡93 ♡AJ8742
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	3 ♡
?			

What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK532 ♡K10 ♡J83 ♦AQ7
Partner opens the bidding with five diamonds. What action do you take?

Q.7—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ1085 ♡A982 ♡K953
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ852 ♡AJ1076 ♡A ♦A8
The bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 NT	Pass
?			

What do you bid now?

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3:

5:00 Quran
5:45 Cartoons
6:00 Children's Programme
6:30 Medical
7:10 Return to Peyton Palace
8:00 News in Arabic
8:30 Arabic Series
9:00 Arabic programme
10:15 Dallas
11:00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 6:

6:30 French programme
7:00 News in French
7:30 News in Hebrew
8:30 Comedy
9:10 The Onedin Line
10:00 News in English
10:15 Dallas

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
03:30 The Breakfast Show
06:20 News, Pop music, feature, listeners questions
07:00 News, Roundup, reports, opinion, analyses
07:30 Dateline
08:00 Special English news feature "The Making of Nation"
08:30 Night Music USA
19:00 News Roundup, reports, opinion, analyses
19:30 VOA Magazine, Americana, science, culture, letters
20:00 Special English news
20:15 Music USA (Jazz)
21:00 VOA World Report
22:00 News, Correspondents reports, background features, media comments, analyses

CULTURAL CENTRES (Amman)

American Centre	Tel. 41521
British Council	38425
French Cultural Centre	37000
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	24039
Hussa Arts Centre	65195
Hussein Youth City	77141
Y.W.C.A.	41793
Y.W.M.A.	44271
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	65111
Citadel Museum	26191
Folklore Museum	36191

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Sign on
7:01 Morning show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning show
10:00 News headlines
10:03 Morning show
10:30 Faces and Places
11:00 Sign off
12:00 Sign on and news headlines
12:01 Radiotheque
13:00 News summary
13:03 Radiotheque
14:00 News bulletin
14:10 Music
14:30 In Concert
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 News summary
16:03 Easy listening
16:30 Old favourites
17:00 Country music
18:00 News Summary
18:03 Play of the week
19:00 News bulletin
19:10 News Reports
19:30 Signing off

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:

6:10 Bangkok, Bahrain (RJGF)
11:50 Kuwait
12:40 Riyadh (SDI)
15:30 New York
17:30 Madrid, Athens
17:45 Copenhagen, Vienna
18:00 London, Paris
18:15 Rome
18:20 Cairo (EA)
18:25 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:00 Beirut (MEA)
19:00 Baghdad (IA)
19:15 Frankfurt
20:45 Damascus
01:00 Cairo

DEPARTURES:

7:40 Damascus, London (BA)
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:00 Frankfurt
9:30 Rome
11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)
13:20 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
18:30 Damascus
19:00 Cairo
19:25 Cairo (EA)
20:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJGF)
20:15 Baghdad (IA)
21:00 Jeddah
22:30 Dhahran, Kuwait
22:50 Doha, Muscat (RJGF)
23:50 Bangkok, Bahrain

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Amman)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	24391-4
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36361-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	37211-3
Police headquarters	89141
Nejdeh towing patrol rescue police (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency	21111 37777
Airport information (ALIA)	55205
Jordan Television	75111
Radio English Section	75124
Fire/ambulance, fire, police	19
Fire headquarters	22001

CULTURAL CENTRES (Damascus)

Al Hamra Theatre	Tel. 226-246
Al Shab Art Gallery	226-857
American Centre	552-362
Arab Cultural Centre	333-717
Bulgarian Cultural Centre	557-901
British Cultural Centre	333-944
Deutsch Democratic Republic Cultural Centre	333-932
French Cultural Centre	330-694
Kabbani Theatre	222-016
National Museum	112-854
Soviet Cultural Centre	225-650
Spanish Cultural Centre	334-003
Urana Art Gallery	334-019
Zahrawi Public Library	111-318
West German Cultural Institute	224-954

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:
Amman: Mohammad Ibrahem Khaleel (56294)
Ali As'ad (51919)
Irbid: Sa'id Dahnagh (3775)
Zarqa: Hisham Hyasat (82440)
Pharmacies:
Amman:
Nchoukh (24 hrs Saqf Al Sayl St.)
Samer (61998)
Al Hikma (36570)
Irbid:
Al Razee
Zarqa:
Abou-Sharifa
Tafila:
Al Urdun (23050)
Fana (23427)
Al Shareef (56616)
Al Sabah (76748)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Damascus)

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 90
Chamber of Commerce	118-339
Electric Power Co. (repair)	223-887
Fire headquarters	91
Information	95-97
Municipal water service	113-500
Time (in Arabic)	99

U.N. sea-law meet appears headed for more confrontation

GENEVA, March 19 (R)--The United Nations law of the sea conference reopens today apparently headed for squalls from the start.

The six-week session was called to wind up several years of informal negotiations on a 340-article treaty so that the talks involving about 160 natinns could enter their final phase on formalising a convention text.

But industrial states and developing countries set course for a stormy confrontation over sea mining even before the session opened. Third World nations warned the issue could scuttle the conference.

The United States has announced plans for unilateral legislation designed to give some security for companies planning to develop the technology to mine the rich minerals on the ocean floors.

Developing countries--which want the proposed U.N. treaty to govern such activities--say other industrial states are planning to follow suit, among them West Germany.

The Third World nations declared in a statement here last Friday: "The enactment of such legislation will undoubtedly poison the atmosphere of the negotiations, and would most probably lead to a breakdown of the conference."

Sea-bed mining is expected to be one of the first problems discussed during this session. It is one of seven "hard core" issues delegates have agreed they must settle before a treaty can be made final.

The top U.N. representative at the talks, Colombia Mr. Bernardo Zuleta, has said the issue "may be the key to the success or failure of the session."

The negotiating text before delegates provides for an international sea-bed authority to control all mining activities "on behalf of mankind as a whole".

U.S. delegation chief Mr. Elliot Richardson has argued the American legislation would give companies some protection until the treaty came into force.

Otherwise the firms -- often consortia of multinational companies--would have to be "willing to gamble on the success of the conference--and that they are not willing to do", he told a congressional committee.

ZAPU warns:

Planes flying over Zimbabwe airspace will be shot down

LUSAKA, Zambia, March 19 (AP)--A black nationalist guerrilla organisation fighting in Rhodesia warned today that it will shoot down military and civilian planes flying over the embattled country.

The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) has already claimed responsibility for shooting down two Rhodesian civilian airliners last September and last month, with Soviet-made Sam-7 missiles.

The warning about shooting down other aircraft was published today in the organisation's official newspaper, the *Zimbabwe People's Voice*.

The Voice said: "Anybody who commissions and sends civilian aircraft into battlefields must know the consequences. These planes will be downed for aggression. Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith is an aggressor on the Zimbabwean soil and consequently airplanes of aggression should be shot on sight."

The publication also said: "The patriots will soon seal the whole Zimbabwean airspace, all that goes up will be brought down and ZAPU should not be blamed for Smith's misfortune."

On the war front, the paper said, "The raging torrent of the forces of liberation will soon surround and completely destroy the Salisbury junta."

It added that the war of liberation was now in its final stages and that ZAPU forces throughout the country were in full control of the situation.

"The people's forces are so entrenched that no force can dislodge them from their positions. The whole of Rhodesia has been turned into an operational theatre.

"It is now war to the finish. Smith's ground forces are scared to move anywhere inside Zimbabwe. In daily encounters, Smith's forces continue to be whipped by guerrillas," the Voice said.

The Voice added: "It is the patriotic forces that control the airspace as well. We seriously warn that wherever Smith's planes are sighted in Zimbabwean territory, they will be shot down."

U.S. space shuttle will go 'piggyback' to Cape Canaveral

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, California, March 19 (AP) The space shuttle Columbia, with swept-back wings and a five-storey tail fin, was ready today for its long-delayed flight to Florida.

The shuttle and its Boeing 747 ferry were to take off after a 30-minute test flight, depending on weather conditions, the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said.

Space agency officials at the Dryden Flight Research Centre say they apparently have solved problems that delayed by ten days the piggyback flight to Cape Canaveral.

The Columbia's engine computers and other final touches will be added at Cape Canaveral. The ship's first space flight is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 9.

When the Columbia returns to California--perhaps before the year is out--it will land on a runway cut through a dry lake bed here.

The $500 million shuttle is to conclude its first four flights at Dryden before switching to a Cape Canaveral landing strip.

The 75-ton shuttle arrived here March 8 after it was mounted on a huge trailer and towed across 60 kilometres of desert road from its assembly hangar.

The shuttle will be boosted into space like a rocket. After orbiting the earth for up to a month, it will come gliding home like an airplane. It's designed for at least 100 round trips into space.

With a crew of seven, the shuttle can carry about 30,000 kilogrammes of cargo. Among other space-age jobs, the shuttle will retrieve satellites and set new ones in orbit.

As women's rights delegation arrives

U.S. feminist deported from Iran

TEHRAN, March 19 (R)--American feminist Miss Kate Millett was deported from Iran today after being held at the airport overnight, according to the national airline Iran Air.

Miss Millett, 45, was put on a flight to New York with stopovers in London and Paris, the airline said. She was accompanied by an American friend, identified as Miss Sophie Keir, who was detained with her yesterday.

Miss Millett arrived in Iran earlier this month to take part in the struggle for women's rights. She was kept under guard at Tehran's international Mehrabad airport after being detained yesterday by officials carrying out an Iranian Government expulsion order.

Her deportation coincided with the arrival from Paris of an 18-strong delegation from the recently-created International Women's Rights Committee to investigate the situation of women in the light of Iran's Islamic revolution.

Miss Millett told reporters that officials who detained her in Tehran's Intercontinental Hotel yesterday behaved "barbarously" and confiscated all her tape recordings and notes. It was not immediately clear whether these had been returned to her before she was put on this morning's Iran Air flight.

Miss Millett told reporters last night: "It's a police state. It's just scary. I'm really fed up with all this harassment. all I want to do is get out of here." She said she had not been allowed to contact her lawyer and American Embassy officials said they had not been informed of her whereabouts by the Iranian Government.

The delegation from Paris had no problems entering Iran. West German feminist Miss Alice Schwarzer told reporters the group planned to stay until Thursday and hoped to meet Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and religious leaders, including if possible, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"We feel the women of Iran need solidarity, particularly at this very moment. Now there is still a possibility of change. But everything here could quickly become so oppressive and we cannot accept that," Mrs. Schwarzer told reporters.

Asked whether she was afraid of being in Iran, she replied: "Yes, of course, we are slightly apprehensive."

S. Africa admits liability for black prisoner's death

DURBAN, South Africa, March 19 (R) -- The South African Government has admitted responsibility for the death of a black underground leader in police custody three years ago, and has agreed to pay damages to his family, lawyers said today.

Mr. Joseph Mdluli, 50, died in Durban on March 19, 1976 after less than a day in the hands of security police.

Police said he died of natural causes, but the African National Congress (ANC) -- an underground political party -- published photographs abroad which it said showed the tortured body of the dead man.

After an international outcry, four policemen accused of killing him were tried and acquitted. The government said that Mr. Mdluli had recruited young blacks for guerrilla training abroad by the ANC.

Lawyers for Mr. Mdluli's widow said today that the state had acknowledged liability for the death and agreed to pay $17,250 in damages and court costs.

A claim of $33,350 for loss of support, brought by Mr. Mdluli's widow against Police Minister James Kruger and the four security policemen, will be settled out of court, the lawyers said.

Mr. Mdluli's widow called today for the criminal case against the four policemen to be reopened.

Meanwhile, police in Bethal, east of Johannesburg, said today that political detainee Mr. Churchill Luvuno was admitted to hospital during the weekend.

France reports record turnout for elections

PARIS, March 19 (R)--The political map of France seemed unchanged today after a record turnout in local elections across the country yesterday.

All political parties drew comfort from the poll in which a post-war record of 70 per cent of eligible voters turned out to elect local councilors for a six-year mandate.

The Socialist Party, with an indicated 26 per cent of the vote, emerged as the largest single group and improved its position in northern France and along the south coast.

The communists, whose share of the poll was around 18.6 per cent made gains in the steel-manufacturing areas of northern and eastern France, where thousands of workers are faced with redundancy under government plans to streamline the industry.

But the centre-right government coalition, whose majority in the National Assembly was not at stake, held up well in central and western France.

Traditionally the left does well in the cantonal elections and both opposition parties had called on voters to use the ballot to censure the government's economic policies.

But there did not appear to be a significant anti-government swing. So far the various left-wing parties have won 239 local seats and the government supporters 445 seats.

Of those seats where no candidate won an absolute majority, the left seemed likely to win 427 seats and government supporters 2,279 in next Sunday's deciding vote. In another 280 cantons the voting was too close to enable a prediction fo the final outcome.

Leaders of both the socialists and communists said on television that their candidates would stand down in favour of the best-placed left-wing candidate in the second ballot.

W. German ruling coalition gains ground in elections

BONN, March 19 (R)--Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's left-liberal coalition enhanced its prestige in West Germany by making gains in two key regional elections last night.

The two coalition partners unexpectedly increased their share of the vote in the largely Catholic Rhineland palatinate where they reduced the christian democrats' (conservatives) majority to two seats in the 100-seat parliament.

Rhineland Premier Bernhard Vogel said despite the small majority the CDU would continue to rule the state alone.

In West Berlin, social democrat lord mayor Mr. Dietrich Stobbe and his free democratic (liberal) allies kept their grip on the city government with an increased vote and a probable 69 seats against 58 for the christian democrats.

Altogether about 3,500,000 voters went to the polls--nearly ten per cent of the national electorate.

The main surpirse in Berlin was caused by a new environmentalist group called the "Alternative List" which won four per cent of the vote.

World News Briefs

Eanes begins tour of 3 communist nations

LISBON, March 19 (AP)--Portugal's President Antonio Ra Eanes left for a seven-day tour of Bulgaria, Romania and Hu today, saying Portugal had a role to play in improving East relations. "Small and medium-size European states can play even in developing a world policy that reinforces detente and b the balance on which world security depends," Mr. Eanes sai statement before his departure. His trip, the first by an e Portuguese head of state to a communist country, is part of a e mend relations with other nations after a period of diploma lation during the last days of a rightist dictatorship which fell in Portugal was accused of waging an unjust war against black na ists in its African colonies. The president is to hold talks with in the three countries to seek ways of improving trade and othe

Carter turns attention toward U.S. affair

WASHINGTON, March 19 (R)--President Carter today shif international to domestic affairs at Camp David where he wi his top economic political advisers to discuss the country's eco ills. White House officials said the meeting at the presidential will concentrate on issues such as energy consumption, administration's troubled anti-inflation drive. It follows weeks of close attention to Middle East affairs at a time w administration's economic plans were running into increasi ble and criticism was mounting.

Pakistan needs $3m. to repatriate refug

RAWALPINDI, March 19 (R)--Pakistan will ask Middle countries to help pay for the repatriations of some 18,000 from Bangladesh to Pakistan, an official spokesman said ye He said Pakistan needed around $3 million to resume the Biharis stranded when Pakistan's eastern wing seceded to become Bangladesh. The International Red Cross suspe airlift of refugees for lack of funds. The spokesman said Pak so far re-absorbed 107,000 Biharis and another 18,000 w be repatriated. All arrangements had been made for the re of refugees from Bangladesh but aid from the Middle Ea transportation would be sought through the U.N. Hi missioner for Refugees, the spokesman said.

USSR, U.S. said 'very close' to SALT tr

WASHINGTON, March 19 (R)--Secretary of State Cy said yesterday the United States and the Soviet Union close to completing negotiations on a new Strategic Arms L (SALT) treaty, and the results might be known in the next basic framework for a new SALT treaty was not yet com said in a television interview. "But we really are now at wh call the bitter end. We're very close to completing it." Th place for a summit between President Carter and Soviet Leonid Brezhnev to sign the treaty has not yet been se Vance said he believed it would take place in the Un Asked how soon a treaty could be completed, he said it at on what happended in the next several days. "We'r negotiating on one or two issues at this point. If we can mak on those, then I think we could move promptly on so summit," he said.

U.S. makes biggest-ever drug hau

NEWARK, New Jersey, March 19 (R)--At least 20 ton ish, valued at $860 million in street sales, were seize freighter off the New Jersey coast in the largest drug h history, a federal official said yesterday. Assistant pro Stephen Mills said customs and drug enforcement offic seizure two days ago aboard the Liberian-registered arrested eight seamen--five Americans and three We one of them the ship's captain--following a search by officials.

Poison gas: Impossible to eliminate as weapon of w

LONDON, March 19 (R) -- The United Nations wants 1979 to be the year when the world outlaws poison gas as a weapon of war, but military chiefs appear sceptical.

It is assumed by general staffs that in any East-West European conflict, deadly nerve gases are likely to be employed.

Britain last year developed a new lightweight, carbon cloth suit, with respirator, to protect troops against all known chemical -- and bacteriological -- agents. The United States promptly ordered $5 million worth of the clothing.

Soviet effort in the field of chemical warfare (CW) was this month described as alarming by General John Pauly, the American commander of NATO air forces in Central Europe.

The general said that in the past ten years, the Russians had trained at least 75,000 troops in specialist CW techniques.

The general complained that NATO lagged behind and that "Western society has not got CW into its computer."

A U.N. General Assembly resolution last December called for a treaty to ban chemical warfare to be negotiated during 1979.

In Geneva, Soviet and U.S. negotiators on Feb. 22 resumed protracted meetings on an initiative toward such a ban, which they have promised to put before the 39-nation Disarmament Commission.

The problem, however, is to get a treaty which provides for acceptable methods of seeing that the other side does not cheat.

In fact, a 1925 Geneva agreement does outlaw the use of poison gas. But some powers wished to retain the capacity to retaliate, if an opponent defied the ban. So the 1925 protocol failed to prohibit making and stockpiling of CW agents -- "In effect, it was a ban only on first use," a diplomat explained.

A new 1972 convention banned even the manufacture and stockpiling of more sinister bacteriological -- "germ warfare" -- agents.

Experts say there is no evidence that either NATO or the Warsaw Pact has cheated on this although, because it is impossible to inspect every phial in every state laboratory, nobody can ever be sure.

CW agents like nerve gases remain, however, in the U.S. and Soviet armouries, ready to be delivered tactically on the battlefield by bomb, shell or missile.

One stockpiled nerve gas stops the body ridding itself of a chemical called acetylcholine. This is secreted to make the link between nerve endings when messages pass to and from the brain.

A buildup of acetylcholine causes choking, blindness, convulsions and rapid heart failure.

Troops are being given syringes to inject an antidote. But the gas cannot be smelt, tasted or seen, so by the time a man plunges the needle into his thigh, it may be too late.

Current protective suits also must be discarded and burned after six hours of exposure to CW attack.

While the powers appeared to take each other on trust when they totally outlawed bacteriological warfare, they are less ready to do this in trying to extend the ban to poison gases.

The risks to his own side entailed in unleashing a "germ-warfare" attack would probably deter a belligerent from doing so.

Nerve gas is a less risky weapon, able to be used so that only a small area is contaminat time. A command easily be tempted r

Secondly, while that it would he ensure that non stocks of biologic West, at least, com tem could be devis nation's chemical that poison gas is n

Britain this m experts from 24 "neutral" countrie round a civilian pla claiming to prove t tions could be carr endangering legit secrets.

The Russians international ob declined to be pa

Stormy waters ahead for liner operators

So far tankers and bulk carriers have taken the brunt of the depression in world shipping, but now the liners are coming under threat through new Third World fleets, Soviet dumping and increasing government interference.

By Michael Grey

LONDON -- While tankers and bulk carriers have felt the full weight of the recent depression, with millions of tonnes of surplus shipping laid up, the world's liner trades have been managing very nicely.

Traditionally less affected by the violent turns of the freight cycle, liners, most of which are organised into protective conferences, have been better able to weather the storm. However, a combination of circumstances is now beginning to hit the liner trades hard and is making this sector a lot less predictable as an area for future investment.

First there is the increasing militancy among shippers and the effectiveness of shippers' pressure groups in resisting freight rate rises as they are imposed by liner conferences. While shippers have always resisted price increases in the past, their ability to make their objections stick has always been limited by a general lack of power through poor organisation.

That this is no longer the case has been amply illustrated by the recent resistance in South East Asia to the proposed freight rate increases by the Far Eastern Freight Conference. Shippers in the area have a history of militancy but this time, with a good deal of UNCTAD advice, it was channelled not only into national objections to the proposal but wholesale regional resistance through the ASEAN intergovernmental alliance. It is a sign of the times and one that is likely to be repeated elsewhere.

It is UNCTAD that is causing a further headache to liner operations in the forthcoming Manila conference of the United Nations body, where Third World countries, pledged to obtaining a greater share of world shipping, will be bound to express impatience at the progress so far achieved.

To date the developed world and the big shipping nations have failed to recognise the UNCTAD Liner Code, under which trade between countries would be divided up on a 40:40:20 ratio between exporter, importer and cross trader. It is the liner sector that is being called upon to give, and in such a climate it is difficult to see any real growth in the developed nation fleets.

The developing nations are slowly making an impact on the liner trades, through the construction of new tonnage for national flag operation. While it is argued by developed nation liner shipowners that such national fleets are wasteful and serve no economic need, the prestige, foreign exchange and employment opportunities inherent in the operation of own-flag liners are difficult to deny.

Moreover, there is a strong element of state direction and political pressure in the employment of such ships, and it is recognised that if there are too many ships for the cargo, then the state-owned vessels will be the ones filled first. Argentina has recently taken this attitude to its logical conclusion, having built a fleet of liner types far in excess of that needed by the trade. A decree reserving 80 per cent of the national cargo for these ships has been passed, which has effectively banished other traditional liner traders from the area.

With politics always close to such arrangements and government to government bilateral trade deals becoming more common, the long term stability of liner operators is put under threat. Owners of sophisticated ships with a complex shore back-up, liner operators are becoming particularly worried about the situation.

Of further concern to liner owners is the continuing expansion of the Soviet merchant fleet. Whether its growth can be attributed to strategic or commercial reasons is questionable, but what matters is its effect.

The presence of a large number of increasingly big and sophisticated container and roll-on/roll-off vessels, operated at a very low cost by a mammoth state enterprise, introduces an element of uncertainty into all conference-shipper dialogues.

With crews paid a fraction of that earned by Western operating personnel, and the knowledge that shippers find it hard to resist low rates, the Soviet incursion into Atlantic, Pacific and Far East trades has been very serious. In some trades, such as those to the east coast of Africa, the Soviet entry, accompanied by rate cuts up to 40 per cent, has been a disaster for traditional carriers, who have withdrawn their ships.

The situation is made infinitely worse by the fact that the main liner operators are presently coming to the end of the most ambitious investment programme that the shipping world has ever seen.

The application of containerisation to the U.S., Australasian, Far East and South African trades has involved shipping companies in massive investment and good load factors will be needed for many years if this is ever to be paid for. The large cellular container ship is not the most flexible of vessels and if cargo fails on one route it is not always possible, as with the old general cargo ship, to provide alternative employment.

The nightmare of laying up a £30 million vessel (such as those on the Far East trades) has not yet occured, but is not far from the thoughts of every liner company executive these days.

There have already been danger signals over the South African liner trade from Europe, where the initial optimism of the conference owners has not been justified, with the result that three giant container ships will probably have to be redeployed.

Fortunately there still remain certain trades to introduce to the container, and it is likely that these big ships will replace other smaller units on existing trades, enabling new areas to be served with the box.

Other worries have come from the Persian Gulf, with the complete cessation of a busy liner trade into Iranian ports other than the ships of the national flag. More than one specialist carrier into Iran has failed as a result of the current troubles. Others will be left with surplus fast and heavily geared tonnage that it will be hard to employ in other Gulf ports.

There is little doubt that the good days of the liner have gone forever. Carriers' margins are closely examined by increasingly powerful shippers' bodies, their profitable routes are overrun by Russian and Third World shipping, and they are ever more prone to bilateralism and governmental interference.

The liner sector will be facing even greater problems in the future. In the absence of any really significant growth in world trade, the traditional liner operators, and particularly those involved in cross trading, know that the only way they can go is down.

It would appear that the sizeable redundancies announced by British and Japanese liner operators are merely the tip of an iceberg.

FINANCIAL TIMES NEWS-FEATURES

Water shortages to be 'way of life' for Jap

TOKYO, March 19 (AP)--A disturbing lack of rain, crowded cities, and inadequate reservoir systems have created the grim prospect of severe water shortages in some parts of Japan.

More than 20 cities around the nation are already under some kind of water rationing system, and experts have warned that shortages may become a way of life even in the metropolitan areas of Tokyo and Osaka if water resources are not developed in the next decade.

Water shortages seem somehow out of place in Japan, an island nation of rich verdure with 180 centimetres of rain a year, twice the world average per unit area.

But there are also 115 million people on the islands and the rainfall per capita is only 20 per cent of the world average.

The limits of the nation's water resources were graphically revealed last year when a drought hitting western Japan forced Fukuoka, a city of almost a million on the island of Kyushu, to turn off the tap for up to 20 hours a day.

The sights of housewives hauling buckets from water supply trucks, families eating from paper plates, and workers digging wells next to housing complexes have become common since the rationing system was started last May. Water is now supplied six hours a day, with little hope of improvement unless the late-summer typhoons are particularly heavy this year.

However, the Meteorological Agency in late February made the disheartening prediction that the subaverage annual precipitation most of the nat last year may cont ter half of the 19 said that global w causing water-la veer off before re coasts will pers further strain on reservoirs.

The prediction the fact that this in mountain re one-third norm water levels belo in every reserv

The water sit exacerbated demands for wa dards go up a gregate in metr An official of th Agency Water R said that the ag ing big water use is planning new over during dro that their effort stymied by eco the intransige dents who obje rice paddies to voirs.

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Subterrane desalinisation of sewage wa sibilities for the present the onl impress on can not an inexhau said.